

## **COMMENTS AND RESPONSE**

In view of the comments below, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application including pending claims 1-24, and withdraw the pending claim rejections.

### ***Allowable Claims***

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9 are allowable. Applicant respectfully acknowledges the allowability of these claims.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103***

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-19, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,304,623 to Richards et al. (“Richards”) in view of United States Patent No. 5,890,051 to Schlang et al. (“Schlang”) and United States Patent No. 5,510,800 to McEwan (“McEwan”).

By this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 10-19, 23, and 24, thus rendering moot this ground of rejection.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 10-19, 23, and 24 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Richards in view of Schlang and McEwan.

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Richards and Schlang and McEwan in view of United States Patent No. 5,901,183 to Garin et al. (“Garin”).

By this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 20-22, thus rendering moot this ground of rejection.

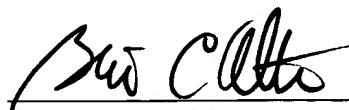
Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 20-22 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Richards and Schlang and McEwan in view of Garin.

***Conclusion***

Accordingly, Applicant observes that pending claims 1-9 are allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance for this application at an early date. If the Examiner has any suggestions, comments, or questions, calls are welcome at the telephone number below.

Although it is not anticipated that any additional fees are due or payable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. **50-1147**.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian C. Altmiller  
Reg. No. 37,271

Date: September 19, 2006

Brian C. Altmiller  
12040 South Lakes Drive  
Suite 101  
Reston, VA 20191  
Phone (703) 707-9110  
Fax (703) 707-9112  
Customer No. 23400